

Hygiene shall ascertain by actual examination or inquiry through its Chairman whether the laws relating to the persons in custody in said institution and to those in control thereof are properly observed, shall give such directions as will insure correctness in the returns required relative to them, and may use such means as may be necessary to collect all desired information. Such visits shall be made on such days and such hours of the day or night, and for such length of time as the visitor may choose. The official visitor shall carefully inspect every part of the institution visited in reference to its cleanliness and sanitary conditions, the number of patients in seclusion or restraint, the dietary and treatment of the patients, and any other matters the Board may consider necessary. The Board, or its Chairman, shall from time to time make an example of all the records and methods of administration as relate to patients, the general and special dietary and treatment of any patients confined therein, especially where admitted since the preceding visit, giving such as may desire it suitable opportunity to converse with the visitors privately.

1939, ch. 120, sec. 19A.

20. Spring Grove State Hospital, Springfield State Hospital, the Eastern Shore State Hospital and Crownsville State Hospital shall hereafter exercise their functions under the supervision, direction and control of the Board of Mental Hygiene. Each of said institutions shall continue under the management of their respective Board of Managers or Visitors, constituted as now by law provided and having and continuing to exercise the same rights, powers, duties, obligations or functions, except that all future appointments of Superintendents and physicians or medical officers shall be made by the board of managers or visitors of each institution, subject to the approval of the Board of Mental Hygiene, in accordance with the provisions of Article 64A of the Code. Each above mentioned institution shall submit to the Board of Mental Hygiene such reports, medical and financial, as the Board of Mental Hygiene may request. It shall be the duty of the Commissioners of Mental Hygiene to inform the Board of Mental Hygiene as to conditions in the above mentioned institutions and to order that such changes as seem desirable for the welfare of the patients, be, with the approval of the Board of Mental Hygiene, put into effect.

All appointments of physicians below the grade of Superintendent or Clinical Director to any State Hospital for mental patients shall be made subject to transfer from one institution to another by the Board of Mental Hygiene, provided the Superintendents of the two institutions in question agree to the transfer and provided that no reduction in salary is made and that approximately similar living conditions are supplied the physician to be transferred.

An. Code, 1924, sec. 20. 1912, sec. 20. 1904, sec. 20. 1888, sec. 20. 1886, ch. 487, sec. 21.

21. If in their judgment any person confined in any institution in this State as insane be not insane, the Board may, at any time, bring the matter to the attention of the state's attorney of Baltimore City, or the state's attorney of any of the respective counties of the State, whose duty it shall be to apply to the proper tribunal for the writ of *habeas corpus*, to the end that proper inquiry and investigation may be had at once as to the mental condition of such person; and if the court shall be of the opinion that such person is not insane, then the court shall discharge